

CLAIMS

1. A computerized method comprising:
providing a user-customized, text-based script;
booting a computer from an operating system image on a computer readable medium, wherein said computer has an architecture greater than 32-bits; and
5 performing one or more functions on the computer according to the user-customized, text-based script.
2. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein performing comprises installing another operating system image on the computer.
3. The computerized method of claim 2, wherein the computer includes a mass storage device and wherein performing comprises partitioning the mass storage device.
4. The computerized method of claim 2, wherein the computer includes a mass storage device and wherein performing comprises formatting the mass storage device.
5. The computerized method of claim 4, wherein formatting comprises formatting the mass storage device with a file system in a format supported by the operating system image.
6. The computerized method of claim 2, wherein the computer includes hardware and wherein performing further comprises validating the hardware.
7. The computerized method of claim 6, wherein the operating system image includes protected mode hardware drivers operable in a protected mode of the operating system image, wherein validating comprises:
prior to installing, validating the hardware using protected mode hardware drivers.



8. The computerized method of claim 2, wherein installing comprises copying one or more files associated with the another operating system image to the computer and integrating the files.

9. The computerized method of claim 8, wherein the script identifies a plurality of steps in which the files are copied and integrated and wherein the script identifies the sequence in which the plurality of steps are executed.

10. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the computer has a 64-bit architecture.

11. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein booting and performing are operative on a computer having an architecture of 32-bits or less.

12. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein booting comprises:
setting a flag; and
responsive to the set flag, enabling functionality within the operating system image.

13. The computerized method of claim 12, further comprising allowing user mode software to perform configuration responsive to the set flag.

14. The computerized method of claim 12, wherein functionality includes loading configuration information into volatile memory.

15. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the computer readable medium includes the script.

16. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the script is remote from the computer readable medium.



17. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein performing comprises recovering the computer from failure of software.

18. The computerized method of claim 17, wherein the software includes an operating system or an application program.

19. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the computer readable medium is accessible by the computer via a network.

20. The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising editing the user-customized, text-based script so that performing installs another operating system image.

21. One or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

22. The operating system image on the computer resulting from the computerized method of claim 2.

23. A system comprising:

means for providing a user-customized, text-based script;

means for booting a computer from an operating system image on a computer readable medium, wherein said computer has an architecture greater than 32-bits; and

5 means for performing one or more functions on the computer according to the user-customized, text-based script.

24. A computerized method comprising:

providing a user-customized, text-based script;

booting a computer from a first operating system image on a computer readable medium; and



5 installing a second operating system image on the computer according to the user-customized, text-based script, wherein booting and installing include only one re-boot of the computer.

25. The computerized method of claim 24, wherein the script is located on the computer readable medium.

26. The computerized method of claim 24, wherein the computer includes hardware and further comprising validating the hardware.

27. The computerized method of claim 24, wherein the computer includes a mass storage device and wherein installing comprises formatting the mass storage device.

28. The computerized method of claim 24, wherein installing comprises copying one or more files associated with the second operating system image to the computer and integrating the files.

29. The computerized method of claim 28, wherein the script identifies a plurality of steps in which the files are copied and integrated and wherein the script identifies the sequence in which the plurality of steps are executed.

30. The computerized method of claim 24, wherein the computer includes the computer readable medium.

31. A system comprising:

 a first operating system image with operating system components selected by a user;

 a second operating system image; and

5 a text-based script file customizable by a user which interacts with the first operating system image to install the second operating system image on a computer, wherein the computer has an architecture greater than 32-bits.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein each of the operating system components comprises at least one file.

33. The system of claim 31, wherein the operating system components include hardware drivers.

34. The system of claim 31, wherein the second operating system image includes a plurality of operating system components and wherein the first operating system image includes a subset of the plurality of operating system components.

35. The system of claim 31, wherein the computer has a 64-bit architecture.

36. The system of claim 31, wherein the script file is operative on a computer having an architecture of 32-bits or less.

37. A computer readable recovery medium for use with a computer comprising:
an operating system image; and
a text-based script file which interacts with the operating system image to direct recovery from failure of software on the computer.

38. The computer readable recovery medium of claim 37, wherein the software includes another operating system image.

39. A computerized method of creating an operating system image on a destination medium, said method comprising:

selecting a subset of operating system components from a plurality of operating system components;
generating a list of files associated with the selected subset of operating system components; and

installing the selected subset of operating system components on the destination medium as the operating system image, wherein installing includes copying the files from an installation medium to the destination medium.

40. The computerized method of claim 39, wherein the operating system components include hardware drivers.

41. The computerized method of claim 39, further comprising creating at least one hive, wherein installing includes copying the created hives to the destination medium.

42. The computerized method of claim 39, wherein installing further comprises integrating the files on the destination medium.

43. The computerized method of claim 39, further comprising selecting additional operating system components, and wherein installing comprises installing the additional operating system components on the destination medium.

44. One or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 39.

45. The operating system image on the destination medium resulting from the computerized method of claim 39.

46. A system of creating an operating system image on a destination medium, said system comprising:

means for selecting a subset of operating system components from a plurality of operating system components;

5 means for generating a list of files associated with the selected subset of operating system components; and



means for installing the selected subset of operating system components on the destination medium as the operating system image, wherein installing includes copying the files from an installation medium to the destination medium.

47. A system for creating an operating system image on a destination medium from a plurality of operating system components, said system comprising:

at least one application program which, when executed by one or more processors on a computer, causes the one or more processors to perform acts including allowing a user to select a set of operating system components from the plurality of operating system components and generating a list of files associated with the selected set of operating system components; and

operating system component modifications which allow the selected set of operating system components to execute as the operating system image.

48. The system of claim 47, further comprising a text-based script for directing performance of one or more functions by the operating system image.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the functions include installing an operating system on another computer.

50. The system of claim 48, wherein the functions include one or more tasks selected from the group consisting of: recovering another computer from software failure, backing up and/or restoring data on another computer, remotely troubleshooting another computer, and using the computer executing the application program as a remote thin client for another computer.

51. The system of claim 47, wherein the set of operating system components is a subset of the plurality of operating system components.

52. The system of claim 47, further comprising additional operating system components not present in the plurality of operating system components, and wherein the

application program, when executed, further causes the one or more processors to perform acts including allowing the user to add at least one of the additional operating system components to the selected set of operating system components.

5 53. The system of claim 47, wherein the operating system component modifications include writing state information to volatile memory.

54. The system of claim 47, wherein the application program, when executed, further causes the one or more processors to perform acts including generating the operating system image.

55. The system of claim 47, wherein the application program, when executed, further causes the one or more processors to perform acts including creating at least one hive.